

REMARKS

Objections to the Abstract

The Abstract stands objected to for not being presented in a single paragraph of 150 words or less. Applicants submit that the enclosed new abstract is presented in a single paragraph of less than 150 words, and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the present objection.

Rejection under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-15, 17 and 19-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0010463 to Hahn-Carlson. Applicants respectfully disagree, and note that Hahn-Carlson has a filing date of May 12, 2003, whereas the present application claims priority under 35 USC 119 to GB 0225422.5, which has a filing date of October 31, 2002.

Applicants note that Hahn-Carlson is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. application No. 09/259,657 (now U.S. patent No. 6,571,149).

U.S. 6,571,149 has a filing date of February 26, 1999, well before the priority date of October 31, 2002 of the present application. However, Applicants note that the description of U.S. 6,571,149 does not recite the language quoted by the Examiner as reading on the features of the independent claims (e.g. in paragraphs 0031 and 0050, see pages 3-4 of the present action). Applicants respectfully submit that the language quoted by the Examiner in the present action as reading on the features of the independent claims does therefore not form part of the prior art for the present application.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Hahn-Carlson is not a valid prior art reference for the present application, and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the present rejection.

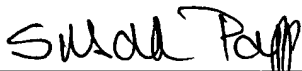
In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urge the Examiner to pass this case to issue.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 08-2025. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 08-2025.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

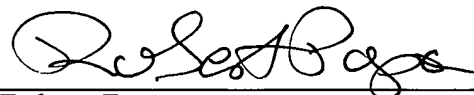
09/05/06
(Date of Transmission)

Susan Papp
(Name of Person Transmitting)


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Respectfully submitted,



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